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The Cross & the Plough, V. 6, No. 1, 1939

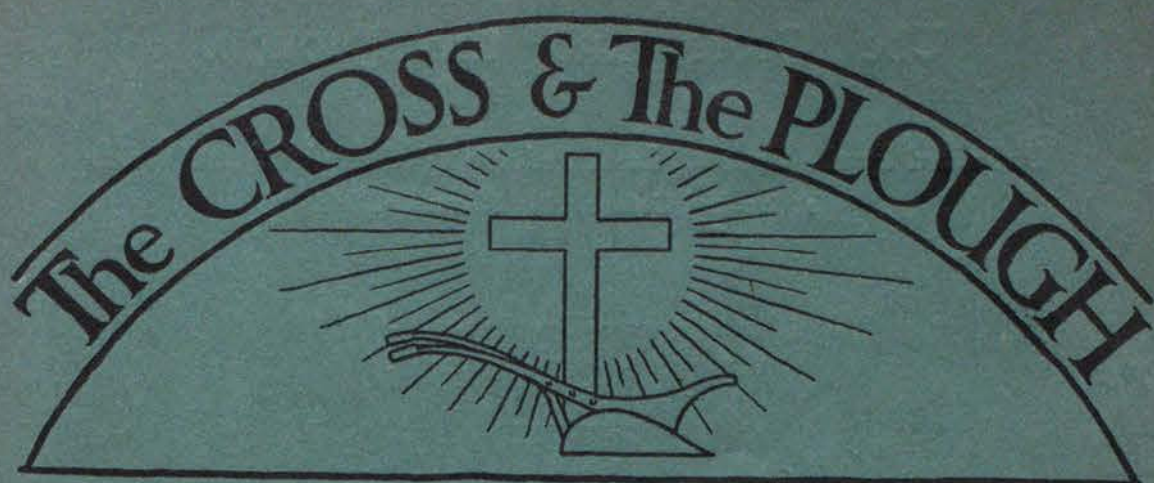
Catholic Land Federation of England and Wales

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*The Organ of the Catholic Land
Associations of England and Wales.*

QUARTERLY.

TWOPENCE.

MICHAELMAS 1939

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Sir Albert Howard, C.I.E.

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The Cross and the Plough.

Published by the Catholic Land Federation of England and Wales
at Weeford Cottage, Hill, Sutton Coldfield

CLARIFICATION

EVERYTHING in this issue, with the exception of this note, was prepared before it was known that Armageddon had begun. But the Land Movement has foreseen Armageddon, and even some of its details, so clearly that the present number does not lose point on that account.

Recent events have both justified us and clarified our issues. We have always protested against the unreal and highly illogical analysis which postulated a fundamental opposition between Communism and Fascism in its various forms. Catholic authority, naturally, has avoided this momentous error, but many Catholics, and many Catholic periodicals, have fallen for it heavily.

Because the rulers of England were wrong, they added, the rulers of other states with which they were in conflict must be right. Such an attitude involves a gross and elementary logical fallacy, and the end of August demonstrated it. For with startling and convincing suddenness, deep hell called to deep hell; and those who were said to have intervened in Spain to save Christian civilisation from Communism emerged as its friends and allies. The totalitarian systems have avowed their spiritual unity.

There is little satisfaction in pointing out that those who judged, not by political or class prepossession, but by the ethics of the Catholic Faith, have long predicted this coalition. It is more to the present purpose to say how radically the new orientation simplifies the issue.

There stand now in armed opposition Capitalism and Totalitarianism. Both are hateful and intolerable to Catholic morals.

But if, by way of lesser evil, we are forced to choose between them, it cannot be doubted that we must choose Capitalism. For if Capitalism's chief heresy is its denial of Property, the chief heresy of Totalitarianism is even more fundamental. It denies Personality.

English Catholics can therefore undertake, on this firm principle, a whole-hearted support of their country in the battle joined. And they must do so, also, because although we could dispense very readily with the anonymous rulers of England, England—the real England—must be saved, and we cannot disengage the two until the common enemy has been destroyed. Their motives are not our motives, nor their god our God, but that quarrel must await the aversion of the more instant peril.

After battle and victory we shall have to apply the Catholic ethic to make a new England. Reconstruction must be, not on any system showing superficial tolerances according to politics, but on the simple and eternal principles of the Faith. On that, and on that alone, must be our future action. If the validity of our past judgments gives us any right to offer a remedy in that future, we claim it now. Only in such a future can arise the Sun of Justice.

The Cross and The Plough will continue to appear so long as production and distribution are possible. Should circumstances impose suspension, we promise our subscribers that publication will be resumed at the earliest practicable moment, and that records will be preserved carefully to that end.

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

SIX NOT OUT

With this issue, *The Cross and The Plough* enters upon its sixth year. It may well prove decisive. If the paralysing influence of foreign preoccupations can be removed without a war, some definite action must be imposed upon the Catholic Body, unless it is to incur the reproach of having abrogated any pretence of spiritual and moral leadership.

And if war does break out, action will be needed more than ever, but under conditions which stagger the imagination. Either way, the pitiful *Public Information Leaflets* point the moral without even being conscious of it. No. 3, on *Evacuation*, makes it difficult, as one of the greatest leaders of the Land Movement writes to us, to refrain from saying *I told you so!*

DEATH AT A PREMIUM.

It is surprising that political circles have not had the elementary decency to refrain from jubilation over the fact that unemployment figures, for the first time in ten years, are down to one million.

A year or two ago a Cartoonist put these words into the mouth of Death "*I will put them to work if no one else will.*" He is justified of his prophecy, but even he could hardly have foreseen that the politicians would boast about it. If the money is available now, it was available then, and the brutal denial of funds during all those bitter years will not be forgotten. Even now there are many signs that Means Tests are coming home to roost.

FAMILY ALLOWANCES

Many interests which had no use for the Land Movement are now concentrating on propaganda for Family Allowances. They are a poor expedient for a Body which claims to have the key to social justice, but if our rulers can be induced to grant them without drawing the money from the wages of unmarried workmen, they will be so much to the good.

But they involve a point which seems to have escaped notice. They are an admission, in the most definite and formal terms, that Industrial Capitalism is morally and materially bankrupt. All business men will agree that if one's sole hope is a claim on the assets of a bankrupt concern, there is little hope for a prosperous year's trading.

VIRUS

The inoculation virus, for humans and animals, seems to be having a good time. We have always tried to refrain from advancing points on which our readers might legitimately disagree, but on two grounds the principle seems to be offensive to sound thought. Disease, as a rule, is the result of an unsound environment which has reduced normal resistance. To concentrate on the various methods of immunisation is to leave the main problem untouched. This, of course, is the main objection to the pasteurisation of milk. The true remedy is to restore health and stamina to our enfeebled herds.

The other objection is that even if we can be sure where a culture starts, we cannot know where it stops. According to *The Farmers' Weekly*, an injection for sterility in cows is known to have caused at least two outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease in Gloucestershire. And *The Times* of 31st July says "The objection to the use of a vaccine is that when the live culture is introduced into the stock, it is soon passed out on to the soil, and multiplies there, later to cause an outbreak." Quite so. One of these days we shall realise that the remedy, for humans and animals alike, is the control of breeding experts—and a healthy soil.

A BILL ON THE SHELF

From a small illustration in *Punch*, and from nowhere else, we learn that the *Poultry Industry Bill* has been shelved. This reticence may mean either temporary or permanent shelving. Probably the latter. The silence in that case would be intended to spare the

Government the humiliation which it incurred in connection with the late unlamented Milk Bill.

Lord Addison (a gratifying eleventh-hour repentance) expressed in the House of Lords his fears for the small poultry farmers if the Bill went through.

A LITTLE NONSENSE

An expert has been defined as a man who knows more and more about less and less. Sir Joseph Barcroft, Chairman of the Food Investigation Board, said to the British Medical Association in July:

British wheat has too much water content. It will keep for three or four years, but for ten-year storage we must wash out British wheat. We must eat it immediately and store wheats, such as Canadian wheat, which have a low water content and will keep longer.

Unconscious admissions, as we have remarked before, have devastating force. We are now certain that British wheat will keep for four years. In God's name, what sort of a world do we live in if that is not enough?

FINANCE AND FAIRYLAND

Mr. Clarence Hatry has written and published a big book which proposes to solve the problems of Capitalism by organising mass migration of populations to sparsely peopled areas of the world. It is a pity that during Mr. Hatry's seclusion from the world it has become clear that the Finance-Capitalism of which he is so distinguished an exponent has almost completed the destruction of the new lands on which these unfortunates would have to live. We have got beyond capitalism. Our job is to reconstruct inside *The Fairy Ring*.

MEN OR MACHINES?

Mr. G. Hammond Foot has recently written on "*How To Wipe Out Unemployment*." The operative sentence is "A nation's aim should be to build up a vigorous, healthy yeoman farming community, on modern lines, in up-to-date homesteads, backed by machinery depots, dairies, bacon factories, grading and selling centres." The article is

illustrated by a Reaper and Binder drawn by a Tractor. The field appears to be of the order of fifty acres.

The Observer, on the other hand, remarks that our present methods of pig and bacon production are "more like factory work than like life on the land."

It is always desirable to think out implications before being up-to-date.

AUSTRALIA ENGAGES

An encouraging sign of the growing appreciation of the importance of a Catholic Land Movement is to hand. We have received a copy of the first issue of *Rural Life*, a monthly produced under the auspices of the National Secretariat of Catholic Action in Australia. "Hundreds of people," says the first Editorial, "flee for safety from the armies of the enemy. This makes headlines in the daily Press. But there are no headlines about the greatest number of refugees in history: the people who flee from life on the land to decay in the city."

This is an admirable note on which to sound the rally, and principle and practice, in this first number of *Rural Life*, are mixed in proportions exactly calculated to Australia's need, which is to stiffen the sinews of those already on the land, and to encourage a more mixed type of husbandry.

The Cross and The Plough receives honourable mention. We offer heartiest welcome and good wishes to this worthy reinforcement. (Threepence per issue: Box 25, Wangaratta, Victoria, Australia).

CYCLE

There was a bank whereon the wild thyme blew,

The merchants filled the economic blank
—A corner site—with paper, and it grew,
But now the wild time blows upon that Bank.
—H.R.

It is due to Mr. John Hagreen to say that "Wings Over Home Land" was in our possession a month before anything was even rumoured of a certain Pact.

THE TWO STANDARDS

The Economist is always frank. It is a pity that, on the whole, it is read only by those who approve thoroughly of its principles. Otherwise the social revolution would be even more imminent than it is.

Its issue of 1st July contains an editorial review of a book by Dr. P. Ford, of the Economics Section of the British Association, entitled *Incomes, Means Tests and Personal Responsibility*.

The essential basis of the system under which we live is thus stated by *The Economist*. "The operation of the capitalist industrial system still rests upon the premise that free movement of workpeople from place to place according to the current requirements of the economy is secured by changes in earnings, and it is important to enquire to what extent social services do tend to impair this flexibility." The Distressed Areas have seldom been more exquisitely described, and the essential vileness of the system which produced them has seldom been more frankly admitted. It is a system not only dead but stinking. It relieves us to know that when the next drought has covered in eroded dust the grinning carcase we need regret it so little.

To its own patent surprise, *The Economist* concludes from the statistics of Dr. Ford that so far from the younger members of a family dodging their responsibilities towards the erstwhile bread-winner, the proportion of fathers so succoured tended to increase over the period analysed. "In the unemployed families examined, between two-fifths and two-thirds of the heads of households were aided by members of their families, and over a tenth by persons in the house outside the actual family . . . Attempts to evade the responsibilities imposed by the new Means Test by moving to another household were nearly negligible."

No wonder *The Economist* is constrained to add "the picture painted is one of abiding family ties, of tenacious self-help and mutual assistance."

But look again on this picture, O Economist, and on that. The smallest and most

intimate of human institutions has had imposed upon it a breaking strain—and it does not break. The largest, richest and most powerful institution the world has ever seen has no rival strong enough to halt it, much less to impose upon it a breaking strain—and it breaks. It breaks before our eyes in evil-smelling ruin.

No wonder *The Economist* can conclude "*Capitalism is not yet in any danger of losing its efficiency because of its humanitarianism.*" It had never any humanity to lose: it had only fear and greed to temper its native viciousness. Its efficiency has been lost because God is not mocked, and because He still chooses the foolish things of this world to confound the wise, and the weak things of this world to confound the strong.

The heroic virtue of countless little homes has survived and overcome those masters of England who, even as we write, go down to dusty death. They go unwept. None shall even know their thrice-damned names. And after them the little families, conscious or unconscious servants of Christ, shall make all things new.

Little less disconcerting than the danger of war or of dwindling population are the effects of soil erosion and soil depletion in those countries from which we are wont to obtain abundant and cheap supplies of food. The extent of the influences of soil erosion and depletion are not even yet fully realised. All methods of countering this must in the last resort react against the British housewife and must tend to increase the cost of overseas production. Taking soil erosion, soil depletion and land deterioration together, a vaster area of the globe is undoubtedly affected than is generally supposed. In framing our own long-term agricultural policy, heed must be taken of every shred of evidence on land deterioration that is available all the world over, for it is patent that when the sum is totted up, the total will far exceed what is already only glaringly manifest.—Sir R. G. Stapledon.

DOMESTIC WASTES ON THE LAND

By SIR ALBERT HOWARD, C.I.E.

*(A Paper read to the Institution of Sanitary Engineers in London on 5th May, 1939.
The grateful thanks of the Editor are due to Sir Albert, and to the Institution, for
their kind permission to reproduce it here)*

ONE of the characteristics of this modern world is specialisation. The tendency to break up any large problem into small pieces, to sub-divide it still further, to departmentalise the various factors and then to have these minute units investigated by a host of specialists, all intent on learning more and more about less and less, is to be seen everywhere. It is the curse of science: it is rapidly invading all the professions, including engineering. There are, as you know, many independent engineering societies with their headquarters scattered all over London: as the years pass their number increases. The fragmentation of the subject is faithfully reflected in the fragmentation of the profession.

There is an obvious danger in all this specialisation. Work and thought tend to be concentrated on the periphery of a subject: we forget all about the centre. It is therefore very easy to lose direction and to initiate enterprises which, although sound from the purely technical aspect, are not in the best interests of Society as a whole. The modern methods of disposing of domestic wastes illustrate this great weakness.

This will be evident when we consider the place of wastes in Nature's round—in other words, in the life cycle.

The forest provides the basic principles underlying the correct utilisation of wastes. The residues and remains of the trees and of the abundant animal life, met with in all woodlands, become mixed on the floor of the forest, and are converted into humus through the agency of fungi and bacteria. This humification depends throughout on oxidation processes: there is ample aeration. Nature's method of dealing with forest wastes is sanitary throughout: there is never any nuisance of any kind. On the contrary, the forest affords a place for the ideal summer

holiday: sufficient shade and an abundance of pure fresh air. Nevertheless, all over the surface of the woods, the conversion of vegetable and animal wastes into humus is never so rapid and so intense as during the holiday months—July to September. Nature's methods of waste disposal therefore satisfy the sanitarian. They also satisfy the forester and the agriculturist. If we examine the carpet of finished humus just above the soil we find it is being systematically removed and mingled with the soil by a vast unpaid labour force, among which the earthworm plays a prominent part. The forest not only converts its wastes into manure, but also arranges for its distribution.

In this process everything is sanitary: there is no waste: an essential material for the growth and well-being of the forest is automatically provided. Incidentally, no Councils have to be elected: no rates have to be levied for the removal of wastes: there are no health problems, no engineers, no inspectors, no medical staff, no danger from water-borne or other diseases. Nevertheless, wastes are dealt with rapidly, systematically and efficiently.

Why are the methods of the forest, in dealing with its wastes, more effective than those of the various Councils in our large cities? The answer is obvious if we study Nature's round—the wheel of life. In Nature, life is one and indivisible: the life of the soil is related to the life of the plant world: the vegetable kingdom to the animal kingdom: the symbiosis of Society with crops and live stock has been in operation all down the ages in those civilisations like that of China which have lasted. Trouble inevitably follows any attempt to short-circuit or to interrupt the wheel of life. This is always followed by disease in crops, in live stock and in mankind.

Nature also provides excellent examples of what to avoid in the treatment of wastes. These occur in the peat bog, the natural counterpart of our water-borne sewage system. Here everything has to take place in the absence of air. Again the final product is a form of humus—peat—but peat is far inferior to the leaf mould of the forest as a manure: the nitrogen balance sheet of the bog will not bear inspection from the point of view of the farmer. The life processes which accompany peat formation are anaerobic, slow and wasteful. Most of the nitrogen in the original protein of the wastes is released as gas and temporarily lost to the soil.

When the problems of waste disposal as a whole are considered, it is difficult to escape the conclusion that the West has completely lost direction. In our sewage disposal methods, for example, we have copied the peat bog, cut off the air supply, set in motion putrefactive processes, created fresh problems of disposing of a dangerous product and have ended up with a system of public health based on patent medicines, panel doctors and hospitals for curing diseases which owe their origin to an infertile soil and most of which will disappear the moment agriculture is set on its feet.

The farmers of forty centuries, the cultivators of the East, the Chinese in particular, have closely followed the methods of the forest when dealing with their wastes. Nothing is ever thrown away. Vegetable and animal residues are mixed and converted into humus before being added to the land, so that the soil is not overworked by having to decay this material and grow a crop at the same time. Pigs are kept, chiefly for the supply of the urine needed in vegetable growing. The urine and dung of the human population are always returned to the land. Even the urine is classified, that of the entire animal being placed in the first rank. The consequence is that countries like China and Japan maintain over 2,000 people to the square mile as compared with about 60 in the United States. The Far East has been doing this for centuries without any loss of fertility. After less than one hundred years, the soils of the United States are almost worn out and a great national effort is now in progress to restore the lost fertility. You have all heard about

the dustbowls and the floods of the Mississippi Valley—both the inevitable consequences of improper methods of agriculture which have taken no account of the correct utilisation of wastes.

In Great Britain we are rapidly following in the steps of North America. Real farming has been given up on most of our second-class land and has now practically shrunk to the best areas. This, however, is only a brief halt on the road to ruin. Cropping has to be maintained, not by the correct use of wastes, but by ever-increasing dressings of artificial manures. The taste, quality, keeping power and nutritive value of all produce is steadily falling. Disease in crops and in animals is on the increase. We hear more and more in farming literature about the spraying machine, about vaccines, about serums, about drenches and dope of every sort. All this is reflected in the health of the human population. The recent Medical Testament of the 600 doctors of Cheshire, which was published in the *British Medical Journal* of April 15th last, proves that all the signs of racial deterioration are to be seen to-day, even in rural England. This could at once be arrested by feeding the people on the fresh produce raised from fertile soil.

The correct use of wastes in China has enabled the land to carry a vast population without any loss of soil fertility. That this population possesses the qualities of courage, of steadfastness in adversity and of vision is shown by the way they are standing up to the invaders of their country. One of the reasons why a peace-loving nation has risen as one man is probably a long heritage of correct nutrition. In the Great War the morale of the Germans—a military people largely fed on produce raised with chemicals—collapsed the moment the tide of victory turned. In the West, the waste of wastes is everywhere leading to a worn-out soil, to the adoption of agricultural practices which are inherently unsound and to the rapid production of a C₃ population.

How is this decline in the agriculture of the West to be arrested? This is a large question involving many other things besides agriculture—industry, trade, finance, public health. Briefly stated, we, as a nation, will have to regard men as of more importance

than money: to realise that what really matters in a country like Great Britain is ourselves: to see that our population is properly fed: to regard a fertile soil as the real foundation of the public health system of the future. Agriculture will then fall into its proper place as the means of providing fresh food grown on fertile soil for our people. The financial system will have to be arranged to fit in with this service, because the importation of foods from abroad, grown anywhere and anyhow, and served up in tin cans or in the form of the semi-carrier of the cold store, is defective as a means of nourishment, not only for the women of England—the mothers of the generations of the future—but also for the workers on the land, in the factories and in the counting-house. For our soldiers and sailors, whose physical fitness and morale are probably as important as guns, tanks, aeroplanes and ships, the provision of the best food our island can yield needs no argument.

A beginning can be made in the building up of a fertile soil by the proper use of dustbin refuse. This contains a large amount of impure cellulose and some animal matter and is exactly what is needed for converting the stores of farmyard manure, now available on the land, into humus. By itself dustbin refuse can hardly be called a manure. It contains, however, just those materials—cellulose and lignin—in which our manure heaps are so defective, and which are needed by the fungi and bacteria which make humus. The ordinary manure heap is the weakest link in British farming: it is in urgent need of reform: it is biologically an unbalanced and unstable mixture containing far too little cellulose and far too much urine and dung. The dustbin refuse contains far too much cellulose. When we bring together three or four volumes of dustbin refuse and one volume of farmyard manure, we have the ideal mixture for humus manufacture. Humus is rapidly synthesised from the raw materials in such a heap by fungi and bacteria and must be looked upon as a new substance. Once this basic fact is understood by the farmers, a demand for dustbin refuse, preferably in the pulverised condition, is certain to arise. In the past the contents of the dustbin

have been analysed and have been looked upon as a source of nitrogen, phosphorus and potash. This is quite wrong. The fields of Great Britain are sadly in need of humus. This can most easily be made by mixing the contents of the dustbins and the manure heap together and then arranging for the fungi and bacteria to convert the mixture into humus.

A number of successful large-scale trials have been made with humus prepared from pulverised town wastes and farmyard manure. At Bodiam, in Sussex, about 10,000 tons of finished humus are so prepared every year with the help of the old hop bine, hop string and all the other miscellaneous wastes of a hop garden of 500 acres. The effect of this manure on the soil and on the crop has been most satisfactory: the all-in cost of the humus is considerably less than that of an equivalent amount of artificial manure.

At Marden Park, in Surrey, Sir Bernard Greenwell, Bt., has applied thousands of tons of humus made from pulverised Southwark wastes and farmyard manure to an area under mixed farming. I saw the results in 1938: the humus gave better results load for load than ordinary farmyard manure. Sir Bernard, in a recent paper to the Farmers' Club, spoke of town wastes as follows: "I have only had two years' experience of this myself, but from the results I have seen we can multiply our dung by four and get crops as good as if the land had been manured with pure dung." He then went on to describe the successful results a tenant of his had obtained during the last twenty years with this pulverised waste in the growing of vegetables and in fodder for a herd of cows. I saw this farm in 1938 during a severe drought. The crops were first-class and the dairy herd was in excellent condition, an opinion which has been confirmed by the local veterinary surgeon who described this herd as a very clean one indeed. Sir Bernard concluded his paper in the following words: "A fertile soil means healthy crops, healthy animals and last but not least healthy human beings." In the discussion which followed it was suggested that these words should be adopted as the motto of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health. They should also be considered by the various Municipal Councils who have to dispose of

town waste. These materials are not waste in the ordinary sense, but are one of the essential materials needed for restoring and maintaining the fertility of the soil of England and for laying the foundations of the public health system of the future.

The most successful results were obtained on the land with humus made partly from pulverised town wastes, the demand for this material increased. When the Bodiam experiments started in 1935, the sales of crushed wastes at Southwark were just under £500 a year. At the present time they amount to £2,715. The details are given in the following table:—

SALES OF CRUSHED WASTES AT SOUTHWARK

Year	Tons crushed*		Tons sold		Income from sales		
	Tons	Cwts.	Tons	Cwts.	£	s.	d.
1933-34	18,643	12	7,971	9	653	9	9
1934-35	18,620	1	6,341	9	482	2	7
1935-36	19,153	14	9,878	5	1,001	11	1
1936-37	18,356	13	12,760	15	1,845	6	8
1937-38	18,545	15	15,391	8	2,306	13	7
1938-39	17,966	3	17,052	1	2,715	14	8

The best method of composting pulverised wastes on a farm or a market garden is in large heaps on a warm sunny site facing south protected from drying and cooling winds. If there is any danger of the heaps becoming waterlogged from below by storm water, a suitable catch drain must be provided. The materials—town wastes, farmyard manure, the miscellaneous vegetable wastes of the farm and earth—are assembled in layers as follows: First a layer of town and vegetable wastes about 6in. thick, then a layer of farmyard manure about 2in. thick, followed by a good sprinkling of earth containing any wood ashes or powdered chalk or limestone available. These layers are repeated till a height of about 4ft. is reached. Each section of the heap should be completed before the next is assembled, and each section should not be more than 5ft. across to enable vertical vents, about 4ft. apart, to be made with a light crowbar to help the aeration of the mass. In this way all trampling of the heap is avoided.

* A certain amount of these wastes is required by the depot itself for sealing one of its own tips, so it is not possible to sell all the waste crushed to farmers.

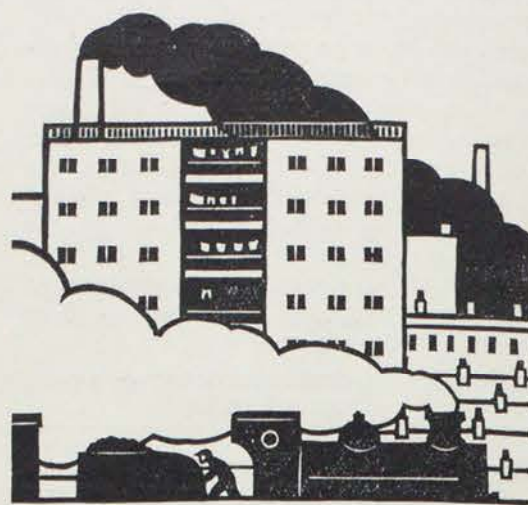
The dimensions of the final heap depend on the amount of material available. The width should not be less than 10ft., otherwise there is too much cooling by wind. A rapid rise in temperature to about 150° F. soon takes place. After three weeks or a month, the temperature begins to fall, when the heap should be turned from one end, care being taken to place the undecomposed material from the outside in the middle. The temperature again rises. At the end of another month the second turn can be made. After three months the material is broken down into a dark powdery mass ready for application to the land. The manufacture of humus in such heaps is accomplished by fungi and bacteria. The final humus is a synthetic product composed of the undecomposed portion of the wastes and the remains of the fungi and bacteria. It has to be made from the correct raw materials properly assembled, just as leaf mould is made in Nature on the floor of a mixed wood.

Another valuable source of humus is the controlled tip in which a slow oxidation of the organic matter goes on. After a year or two humus is formed which, after separation from the refractory materials, including the cinders, is suitable for the land. This can probably be done most cheaply by some form of rotary screen. The inorganic residues left behind could be used to fill up any low-lying areas. A detailed account of the contents of a controlled tip and of the changes which take place therein has already been published under the auspices of the City of Manchester by Jones and Owen in a paper entitled *Some Notes on the Scientific Aspects of Controlled Tipping*. This is a most valuable document. It proves beyond all doubt that the controlled tips in the neighbourhood of our large cities are veritable humus mines, the contents of which should be applied to the land without a moment's delay. These tips contain hundreds of thousands of tons of finished humus which would do much to raise the fertility of the zones of agricultural land surrounding our large cities and improve the quality of the meat, milk, cereals and vegetables produced on these areas.

In conclusion, I should like to deal very briefly with some of the other causes of past

failure to utilise these pulverised wastes. I can deal with this in a few words. It is due to the current practice of estimating the value of a manure from its chemical composition and its content of so many units (1 per cent. of a ton) of nitrogen, phosphorus and potash. Chemical composition, however, has little or nothing to do with town wastes, as this material is not a manure but a diluent of the manure heap. I fear agricultural chemistry has proved the old man of the sea to the farmer. In consequence of this stranglehold, nearly everybody has come to regard manure from the point of view of chemical composition and of soil nutrients. Soil nutrients, however, are only one factor in the case. It is true that growth of a kind results when we add a complete artificial manure to the soil. The salts so provided are absorbed in dilute solution by the roots of the crop and are carried to the green leaves where they are used in the synthesis of carbohydrates and proteins by means of the energy of sunlight. More important than this is the rôle of humus in the soil. Humus not only does similar work to that of artificial manures by providing nutrients indirectly, but it also feeds the plant direct. Living threads of fungous tissue pass from the humus in the soil into the active roots and are digested there very much as food is digested in the stomach of an animal. The mechanism which does this is the mycorrhizal association—the symbiosis of a fungus and the roots of the crop. On the activity of this association quality in plant products, the health of the animals which feed on the crops and our own health depend. The wider symbiosis of Society and the soil must therefore be founded on this marvellous piece of Nature's machinery, which only functions when the soil is rich in humus. It constitutes the biological foundation of the public health system of the future. It has been completely lost sight of by the experiment stations of the Rothamsted type.

The contents of our dustbins must not be regarded as something to be got rid of as quickly, as unobtrusively and as cheaply as possible, but as an essential constituent for making the soil fertile and so arresting the racial deterioration now in progress due to infertile soil containing far too little humus.



EAT MORE B



From whence can anyone fill them here with bread in the wilderness?

The extent of the racial deterioration going on in rural England is described in the Medical Testament of the 600 Cheshire doctors, to which I have drawn your attention earlier in this address. What is going on in a city like London is painfully obvious to any intelligent observer who watches the workers returning home at any railway station like London Bridge. When the urban authorities of this country realise what is taking place and how the formation of a C3 population can be prevented by getting the soil of this island into good heart, I am convinced that no difficulties will be placed in the way of providing the farmer with one of the essential raw materials with which to dilute his manure heaps, so that he can manufacture humus and raise the high quality produce on which the future health and well-being of this country depend.

THE ENGLISHMAN SPEAKS

At least, if there be anything valid in my own vision of these things, we have returned to an origin and we are back in the war with the barbarians. It falls as naturally for me that the Englishman and the Frenchman should be on the same side as that Alfred and Abbo should be on the same side, in that black century when the barbarians wasted Wessex and besieged Paris. But there are now, perhaps, less certain tests of the spiritual as distinct from the material victory of civilisation. Ideas are more mixed, are complicated by fine shades or covered by fine names. And whether the retreating savage leaves behind him the soul of savagery, like a sickness in the air, I myself should judge primarily by one political and moral test. The soul of savagery is slavery. Under all its mask of machinery and instruction, the German regimentation of the poor was the relapse of barbarians into slavery. I can see no escape from it for ourselves in the ruts of our present reforms, but only by doing what the mediaevals did after the other barbarian defeat; beginning, by guilds and small independent groups, gradually to restore the personal property of the poor and the personal freedom of the family. If the English really attempt that, the English have at least shown, in the war, to any one who doubted it, that they have not lost the courage and capacity of their fathers, and can carry it through if they will. If they do not do so, if they continue to move only with the dead momentum of the social discipline which we learnt from Germany, there is nothing before us but what Mr. Belloc, the discoverer of this great sociological drift, has called the Servile State. And there are moods in which a man, considering that conclusion of our story, is half inclined to wish that the wave of Teutonic barbarism had washed out us and our armies together; and that the world should never know anything more of the last of the English, except that they died for liberty.—G. K. Chesterton, in a *Short History of England*.



OUR NEIGHBOURS' LANDMARKS

COMMUNITY FARMING GROUPS ADVISED IN SOIL DISCUSSION.

Will State Governments Act?

Community groups, working a tract of land together, were advocated at a recent Science Congress as the best method of settlement in the present age.

With the refugees migrating to Australia it was desirable to experiment on some type of settlement that would not glut existing markets, but might make new demands from secondary industries, said Sir John Russell, Director of the Imperial Soil Survey and Rothamsted Experimental Station.

Such community groups would produce enough food for their own requirements. The groups would export only their surpluses, to obtain what they required from the outside world, said Sir John.

That would be a far better proposition for the producer than growing his goods for the world market where, as his production increased, the price he received for it decreased.

In other words, Sir John Russell is urging the formation of farming groups similar to those outlined by the *Weekly Review*—the distributist organ in England. To say that these groups are impracticable is to ignore the facts of experience. In both England and America there are flourishing community groups. Unfortunately, the habit of co-operation is foreign to the Australian farmer. He has rarely bought and sold goods and worked certain areas in common with his neighbouring farmers. Consequently his costs of production are much higher than would be the case if he farmed co-operatively.

LAND HUSBANDRY

Added support is given to Sir John Russell's opinion by a statement in a Bank of New South Wales bulletin entitled "The Depreciation of Soil Productivity."

The writer contends "there is need for a changed attitude towards land, not only by men on the land, but also by the public, as represented by Government action. A changed mental outlook must be developed

which, although following methods of business farming, will not neglect so seriously the elementary principles of land husbandry." *Once again we notice the trend from farming for profit only.* A capitalist farming economy is successful only when the original fertility of the soil is present and when there exists a good market for the commodities overseas.

DECLINE IN EXPORT PRICES

In Australia we are witnessing the elimination of both these factors. Our export price index, as compiled by the Commonwealth Bank statisticians, has witnessed a steady decline from 102 in May, 1937, to 66 in December, 1938. So that prices to-day are only slightly above 1929-33 depression level. Furthermore, the greatest decline is witnessed in our two principal commodities—wool and wheat. And finally, we must appreciate the fact that there exists no great opportunity of extending existing markets or of securing new ones.

SOIL BEING EXHAUSTED

In common with most "new" lands, Australia is now finding that the original fertility of the soil is being rapidly exhausted—despite the use of manures. And this soil exhaustion is a fundamental weakness of a capitalist agricultural economy. One of the chief causes of this exhaustion is soil erosion—a problem with which Australia has to remedy immediately.

LAND FOR THE LANDLESS

The Victorian Premier, Mr. Dunstan, has already proposed cutting up thousands of acres in the fertile Western District of this State, and the New South Wales Government has a Cabinet sub-committee report urging the adoption of a plan whereby share-farmers and sons of share-farmers may be settled on large stations at present used for sheep raising only. We trust that our Governments will be impressed by the need for action and will assist farmers with legislation to such an extent that we will have reached the Danish standard where 97 per cent. of the land is actually owned by the farmers themselves.

—From *Rural Life*, organ of the National Secretariat of Catholic Action, Australia.

THINGS WE MISS

By C. J. WOOLLEN

THE postman's knock is one. I, at any rate, have not heard it for a very long time. The letters just flop on the mat, and if there is by chance any accompanying shuffle at the knocker, it is always a half-hearted one.

Then there is that old-time announcement of the names of the stations on the Tube. But that died out a long time ago. "Lancaster Gate. Next station Marble Arch. Marble Arch next," in sergeant-major tones which carried all down the carriage. It made one feel at home—as if somebody were taking a fatherly interest in one's welfare underground; a welcome antidote to the cold stares of fellow-passengers, which always seem to have been *de rigueur* for travellers in London.

I had almost said that the cheery yodelling of the milkman was another thing that had gone out of fashion. But there are, I hear, still one or two here and there who can remain cheerful under the oppression of combines and pasteurization and are not even discouraged by the competition of motor klaxons in the streets and radios blaring from front room windows.

Another thing I have missed lately is the figures on the clocks. The clock-makers leave them out nowadays, and replace them by blobs. The public clocks, I mean. The public house clocks, on the contrary, are usually very clearly marked.

Having started a catalogue of things we miss, we might go on adding to it indefinitely. We might include such things as "five sovereigns in exchange for a five-pound note," or "value for money in more than one in twenty of your shopping transactions." All of them generalisations.

But to get down from the general to the particular, there was one thing recently that I missed acutely. It was a country lane—one of the delights of one of the most delightful suburbs of outer London. I was horrified to find that it simply was not there. The trees on either side used to meet overhead, and you could walk down it protected from sun or

rain. But now there is a wide straight road down which buses run. Each side is ribboned with shops and those ghastly little villas they build nowadays—all stucco and what not.

But I could forgive them that. After all, if you take folk from the congested areas, and have muddled things so much that there is nowhere in the country proper for them to go, the next best thing is to give them a breath of fresh air just outside London. I could, I say, forgive them that. But when they leave a parody of the old country lane running down the centre of their new vulgar road—a few straggly trees to remind me of old-time joys—as they have done—I feel strangely unforgiving.

I would rather they had not left me that reminder. It is as if someone had uprooted the rose trees in my front garden—the fruit of years of labour and love—and had left a few of the buds outside my front door. Or, if you prefer a more mechanised simile, as if someone had stolen the gold watch which has been handed down to me from my grandfather, and had sent it back to me without the works.

And those blobs on the public clocks. I would much rather they left them out, too. For when people saw clocks which did not tell the time, they might wake up to what they are missing; just as a man who has relied on his alarm clock every morning for the last twenty years wakes up in alarm when it fails to go off.

"But why all this fuss?" some may say. "Postman's knock or not, you get your letters. The milk is no fresher for being heralded. And if they no longer bawl the names of the Tube stations, they at least put a map in front of your eyes. After all, it doesn't matter much how things are done as long as they are done."

But that, I contend, is one of the most pernicious heresies of our time. It is the heresy of the short cut—the cutting out of courtesy. It wants to make everything blunt and angular: its buildings, its furniture—and



"WINGS OVER HOME LAND"

—JOHN HAGREEN

its manners; instead of smooth, shapely and rounded-off. It satisfies one side of human nature in that it provides what is useful, but neglects the other side which craves for artistry. To copy Nature, lavish with her roundings-off in the shape of avenues of trees and such-like delights which satisfy the whole man, would take far too long.

The pity of it all is that we have accepted this heresy without making much fuss about it. Instead of taking Nature as our model, we now laud the machine; so much so that the robot is thought more useful than the man, and the latest model is more admired than the man who makes it. For artistry we have substituted commercialism, and the imposter—like the blobs on the clock—has been foisted on us so artfully that we were hardly aware of the change. As long as the result was the same—or if it looked the same—we have not minded very much. As long as the five pieces of paper we get in exchange for our five pound note will keep us going for a week, we do not trouble to enquire what roguery is behind the exchange. As long as we get something at the shop for so much down, we are not concerned whether or not we are being fleeced.

Art and commerce are not good bed-fellows. And when you encounter artistry of

manners, or courtesy, you may be sure that commercialism is a good distance away.

There is, of course, a false courtesy, just as there is spurious art. It is as old as the serpent in Eden; it was displayed by the Greeks bringing gifts; it was fabled in the story of the spider and the fly; and typified in the character of Uriah Heep. It is cultivated by all kinds of bloodsuckers—those delightful people, for instance, who are out to sell you a shoddy house, but who are not nearly so nice when you go back later and tell them the front of it is falling out.

But the genuine thing is a joy. For it is the expression of a regard for values which bear no relation to the merely material. And that is something which, as a community, we may miss only when it is too late.

The tragedy of Spain is a foretaste of the tragedy of the universe. It is the shattering proof of the unhappy condition of men of good-will in modern society which little by little eliminates them, as a by-product that can be turned to no good account. A man of good-will has no longer any party. I am wondering if he will soon have any country.
—Georges Bernanos: *A Diary of My Times*.

A DYING FALL

The Restoration Of The Peasantries: by G. T. Wrench, M.D.

(C. W. Daniel Co.: 6/- net)

Penn'orth of Chips: by Charles S. Segal (Gollancz: 3/6 net)

Our Food Problem: by F. LeGros Clark and R. M. Titmuss

(Penguin Special: Sixpence)

MALNUTRITION is now a word to conjure with, but it is to be feared that many of the supernatural beings who rule our lives are responding only too readily to the invocation. We are in grave danger of insisting on one of the most dreadful results of modern capitalism, only to have our anger and our case turned to our own despite. The Experts (God help us) who never warned us against white bread and pasteurised milk, are now to take charge of our daily lives, and prescribe vitamins in due proportion. Such seems to be the present trend, and we shall do well to be very suspicious indeed of any proposals against malnutrition which do not see the problem steadily and whole.

The points are illustrated admirably in these three books. All of them are written by men whose good-will is either obvious, or at least to be presumed. Their information and insight varies so enormously as to throw into high relief the true nature of the problem.

Mr. Segal is a teacher (not even a head teacher) in a London Primary School. The problem of dealing with his class of twenty-six backward boys drove him to ask himself whether their low Intelligence Quotients had any relation to their deplorably low and unsuitable dietary. He made a painstaking investigation and concluded that it had. He may be congratulated on having elicited from Dr. Cyril Burt an unexpectedly humble, if partial, agreement. The London County Council, although "accepting no responsibility" for the conclusions, appears also to be impressed. Many of us have been asking for years why so enormous a fact as the malnutrition which was imposed on the poor by modern conditions, was not related formally to the alleged dullness of many of their children, instead of that dullness being ascribed comfortably (and almost universally) to inherited defect. We may ask even more pointedly why a London County Council,

professedly Labour in its sympathies, and commanding the services of the most numerous and expensive bureaucracy in the world, left it to an assistant teacher to make the point. Whenever Mr. Segal can get away from the figures of other authorities which almost overwhelm him, he shows a ripe humanity which deserves and wins our respect. Immersed as he is in the chaos which is London, he can hardly be blamed for not seeing the implications of his subject. It is, however, conclusive evidence of fact, and is well worth study on that ground.

But Mr. F. LeGros Clark, the chief author of *Our Food Problem*, is Secretary of the Committee against Malnutrition, and might have been expected to see some at least of these wider implications. His book, intended to have a wide popular appeal, shows no sign of any such vision. One chapter out of ten is concerned with "Home Farming and War," and this accepts a mechanised agriculture as normal. The serious difficulties which would confront an agriculture dependent on fuel supplies from overseas are noted but not solved, and all the rest of this part of the book is devoted to naval insurance of overseas supplies. The acute crisis which impends from soil erosion all over the world is hardly mentioned. Stores are to be "dispersed," but not too widely. The outlook is exclusively urban.

If Mr. Clark represents the views of the *Committee Against Malnutrition*, it appears to be misnamed.

It is when we come to Dr. Wrench's *Restoration Of The Peasantries* that we get down, not perhaps to brass tacks, but to the bread and wine of life. For Dr. Wrench, as our readers will have gathered from his earlier book, *The Wheel Of Health*, sees life steadily and sees it whole. It is evident that a problem of bad food and ill-health can only be solved by the land, which is the sole life-giver. No

proposals to restrain bakers from baking bread which is not fit to eat can avail, because it is not the bakers who produce the sterile flour. No proposals to make Combine Millers produce a flour fit to bake can avail, because live flour will not keep more than a month or two, and wheat must therefore be ground in intimate association with both farmers and consumers.

Dr. Wrench does not deal with these particular details. He does give, constantly and consistently, the necessary conditions for health: a sound soil, a sound social system, a people diffused on, and in intimate contact with, our mother earth. We are so far on the downward path that early and energetic reaction is imperative. This book will be of enormous help.

But it remains that the god of the Expert

THE DESTRUCTION OF ENGLAND

IN the East Midlands of England, chiefly in the counties of Lincoln, Rutland and Northants, are extensive beds of low-grade Iron Ore lying from a few feet to 60 feet below the surface. Over most of this area the deposits are shallow. They have been worked here and there from Roman times, and until quite recently it was the general practice to pare off the top soil, then (separately) the sub-soil, remove the ore, and replace sub-soil and top-soil. The land was then capable of recultivation for agriculture, possibly at a slightly lower standard.

A few years ago, Big Business took a hand, and began operations with enormous mechanical excavators. Some of our readers may recall that it was stated freely in the Press at the time (whether with or without the authority of Big Business is not now clear) that the practice of restoration for agriculture would be continued. The total output from these beds now reaches 80 per cent. of our total Iron Ore production.

Restoration has been almost entirely discontinued. As the result of pressure from Local Authorities and alarmed inhabitants, the Minister of Health set up a Committee to

is the vitamin. The Expert will use it to impose a superstition more deadly than the one we are escaping. *Vitamins are bunk.* The world fed well for many a century without knowing anything of them.

A free people does not need vitamins. It needs golden flour ground in a local mill, and baked into bread whose smell alone makes a man ravenous. It needs butter churned in a local dairy, with an aroma like a spring morning. It needs cheese made with hands, and milk drunk without benefit of steel udders. It needs beef reared to eat, and not as a bye-product. These things exclude the whole modern system under any political name. Until we get them, we shall have malnutrition of the body, and sterility of the soul. The only remedies for us are heroic remedies.

investigate and report. This Report (On the Restoration of Land Affected by Iron Ore Working: Stationery Office, 2/- net) has just been published.

The new mechanical methods involve the total sacrifice of the vital top-soil, the excavation of sub-soil to a depth of as much as sixty feet, and its dumping in parallel ridges, leaving a complete desolation in which the hollows between the ridges may be as much as sixteen feet deep. The Committee uses freely the words *devastation* and *desolation*. Thus on page 24 it says "It is not only the loss of the use of the land which is to be deplored; we cannot lay too much emphasis on the desolate appearance presented by the deepest forms of hill and dale. The effect of devastation might well be compared to that of an area after bombardment."

The scale of this devastation is that, up to 1937, nearly eleven million tons of ore has been extracted, and three thousand acres had been left unrestored. The total acreage of the deposits is 130,000, of which 80,000 are estimated to be economically workable. That is, we are to look forward, in the next few generations, to the destruction of 125 square miles

of England, much of which is of the highest agricultural value and all of which is farm land.

The Committee defends the refusal to restore these areas on the ground that the value of the land is insignificant when compared with the value of the Ore extracted (pages 15 and 39). To this point we shall return.

Its main, and almost its only recommendation, is to ignore the "hill and dale" and drainage problems, and to plant larch trees on the land at a cost of about £40 per acre. The funds are to be obtained by levies on Landowners' royalties, Mining Companies' output, and Local Authorities, in the proportions of three, two and one. That is, these bodies will be called upon for £20, £13 and £7 per acre respectively.

Let us look at some more figures.

The names of the Landowners concerned are nowhere stated, but from a number of indications it seems clear that on the whole they are large landowners. Their royalties from the mining leases vary from £264 to £717 per acre (page 28), and in the Scunthorpe district are as high as £2,000 per acre on the average (page 30). In addition to this, the mining companies, on handing back the land, pay a sum in the neighbourhood of £40 per acre in lieu of restoration (page 31).

That is to say, in no case do the lessors obtain less than £300 per acre, and this sum may frequently be seven times as great.

The mining companies obtain from 18,600 to 46,200 tons of ore per acre worked. At an average selling price of 2/10 at quarry, the gross yield is from £2,650 to £6,600 per acre. Assuming—what is extremely moderate—a net profit of ten per cent., the net mining profit is from £265 to £660 per acre.

We have, then, joint net profits of from £565 to £2,660 per acre.

The costs of agricultural restoration of the deeper workings were investigated by the Committee. They varied widely, but were finally decided to be £60 an acre for levelling alone, and £183 an acre if the top-soil were restored. This is for the more extreme cases where the "over-burden" of soil is more than 35 feet.

That is to say: this land could be restored adequately for from one-third to one-fourteenth of the net joint profits. Actually, even if the Committee's scheme goes through, they are to be asked, rather apologetically, for from one-seventeenth to one-eighteenth of those profits.

Not only so, but because of our idiotic money values, 125 square miles of English land, which have nourished English families from the dawn of history, are to be made permanently useless. Apparently, one lot of Iron Ore matters more than food production for ever. The Committee says so on page 39. "*It is not practicable to sterilise an acre of Ore worth many thousands of pounds in order to preserve agricultural land worth £20 to £30 an acre.*"

We must leave it to others to decide whether English Landlords, English Industrialists, or English Committees, emerge with the most discredit from this sorry business. Like Joseph Conrad, on a not dissimilar occasion, we should have been happy to give their names. But the Landlords are anonymous, the Limited Liability Companies afford no indication of their real owners, and Committees do no more than reproduce the current economic atmosphere. But if there remain any guts in Parliament, full restoration at the charges of the profit-takers will be insisted on.

There is a further point. Our ancestors used iron in moderation. Within no calculable period would these deposits have been exhausted. The new methods date from 1930. They are on such a scale that within 250 years, even assuming no increase in tempo, the deposits will have been exhausted. And England will then be without any Iron Ores at all.

No one who believes in God can agree that an "Age of Plenty" which involves such speedy exhaustion of capital resources, and consequent paralysis, can be in accordance with His Will and His designs for us. It is time, and more than time, that the opponents of sane reconstruction examined their consciences, and looked realistically at their friends.

PRIOR'S WOOD HALL FARM NOTES

AS we send in our farm notes for the September issue of the magazine, it is not easy to foretell what will be the conditions of our work by the time they are being read by our members; not that conditions are likely to be any worse, on the contrary there is every indication that fear of food shortage has completed the good work which was begun by the present Minister of Agriculture, and that the farm worker and his master will be recognised as fulfilling a vital position in the economy of the country. It is so funny to see the newspapers proclaiming as new discoveries the truths about food production which we have been preaching to inattentive ears for the past ten years, and who knows but that, now our countrysides are full of townsfolk evacuated from dangerous areas, these same will come to appreciate their new manner of life; it has certainly come as a surprise to most of them to see the difference between the rickety and undernourished town dwellers and the bonny country children with whom they are in many cases billeted. Another thing that has been commented on with surprise is the surprising ignorance of the town guests when they are out of their own streets; one small child was found the other day by a cottager messing about in the garden with a spade and uncovering potatoes in the ground. He shouted out "Here, what are you doing there?" The boy answered

with a grin "Ah, now I know where you hides your 'taters'." It is all a beginning, but who knows that it may not in the end lead to a big movement for subsistence-living in the country? Oddly enough, there was at first an idea that the farms which have been training lads for farm work should be made to close down in the time of national emergency, but that has now been reconsidered and the work is to go on. From this farm, during the past four years 98 men have been trained and placed in work on the land either as small holders or as farm workers, and from the incomplete records which we have been able to get of their subsequent progress, 67 per cent. have stuck to their work and are doing well. We expect to have reached the 100 mark by the end of September. As to the great Bazaar which was to have been held in October, the uncertainties of the moment have caused it to be postponed, but it will be held as soon as we can see that things are getting steady again, and as soon as we can get another place to hold it (St. John's Hall, in Wigan, where it was to be held is now in the occupation of the army). In any case, I do not suppose that this will interest many of the readers of the magazine except those in the vicinity of Prior's Wood, as in reply to the announcements in the June number, there was one answer only, and that from Wales.

ASSOCIATION NOTES

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND CATHOLIC LAND ASSOCIATION, LTD.

(Registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts).

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R. P. BRADY, Esq.,
M.A., B.Sc.,
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St. Helens.

WE TAKE OUR STAND.

The Catholic Land Associations of England and Wales exist for the following objects:—

To apply to Land Settlement the principles of the Encyclicals *Rerum Novarum* and *Quadragesimo Anno*, with special reference to their insistence on the natural right of man to private property.

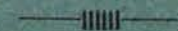
To begin at the beginning; that is, by establishing Training Farms for as many as possible of our unemployed and over-industrialised urban people.

To set up these trained men, with their families, in small subsistence farms to be owned and managed by the holders, and to do this, as far as possible, in communities of land workers and craftsmen forming fully rounded village units.

To urge constantly on the Government, and on those who have been spared the horrors of unemployment, the vital need of balancing the realm of England by restoring a landowning Peasantry.

To educate Catholics in the need for recreating a Catholic Rural Life, and in the necessity for restoring the conception of Family Subsistence Farming to England.

To collect funds for all these objects.



The Associations at present in existence are:—

The South of England Catholic Land Association

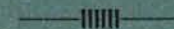
under the Patronage of His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, and their Lordships the Bishops of Northampton and Brentwood.

The Midlands Catholic Land Association, Ltd.

under the Patronage of His Grace the Archbishop of Birmingham and their Lordships the Bishops of Shrewsbury and Nottingham.

The North of England Catholic Land Association, Ltd.

under the Patronage of His Grace the Archbishop of Liverpool.



TRAINING FARM: Prior's Wood Hall, Parbold, Lanes. (North).



THE CATHOLIC LAND FEDERATION.

The Associations, which are autonomous in their own areas, are linked by a Federation for common action, such as representations to the Government. Its President is His Lordship the Bishop of Sebastopolis (The Rt. Rev. James Dey, D.S.O.). Its Hon. Secretary is Mr. Reginald Jebb, M.A., M.C.,

King's Land,
Shipley,

Horsham, Sussex.

Subscriptions are as follows:—

LIFE MEMBERSHIP	:	:	£10
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ASSOCIATE	:	1/- per year.	

JOIN NOW!

Men are decaying through no fault of their own. The ONLY remedy for England's ills is a Return to the Land.

Form a branch of the nearest Association in your District.
Write to one of the Secretaries for a Speaker.

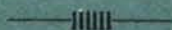


Hon Secretaries:—

South of England.—Mr. T. O. Brennan, F.C.A. (Hon. Treasurer), 351, Addiscombe Road, Croydon.

Midlands.—Rev. T. Boland, Horse Shoes Lane, Sheldon, Birmingham.

North of England.—Mr. J. Gavin, 134, Strand Road, Bootle, Liverpool 20.



WHAT THE POPES SAY.

Dal Vaticano, July 1st, 1933.

"The Holy Father has heard with satisfaction of the progress already made by the five Catholic Land Associations of Great Britain, and prays this important work of restoring the sane and healthy life of the countryside may be abundantly blessed by God and result in a diminution of unemployment through the development of the agricultural resources of the country to the fullest extent possible.

"As an encouragement to persevere in this good work His Holiness most gladly imparts his Apostolic Blessing to all who are engaged in helping to further this most praiseworthy enterprise.

"With the assurance of my personal good wishes,

I am, Yours very sincerely,

E. Card: Pacelli"



"EVERY MAN HAS BY NATURE the right to possess property as his own. This is one of the chief points of distinction between man and the animal creation . . . inasmuch as from the produce of the earth he has to lay by provision for the future. Man's needs do not die out, but recur; although satisfied to-day, they demand fresh supplies for to-morrow. Nature accordingly owes to man a storehouse that shall never fail, and THIS HE FINDS SOLELY IN THE INEXHAUSTIBLE FERTILITY OF THE EARTH. There is no-one who does not sustain life from what the earth produces.

"The law, therefore, should favour ownership, and its policy should be to induce as many as possible of the humbler class to become owners.

"If any there are who pretend differently, who hold out to a hard-pressed people the boon of freedom from pain and trouble, an undisturbed repose, and constant enjoyment—they delude the people and impose upon them, and their lying promises will only one day bring forth evils worse than the present."—Pope Leo XIII.